

A NEW CRAB OF THE GENUS *TRICHOPELTARION* FROM AUSTRALIA

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(Plate xvi, text-figures 1-5).

ABSTRACT

A new species of *Trichopeltarion* is described from southern Australia. This is the first Australian record of the genus.

INTRODUCTION

In describing *Trichopeltarion fantasticum* from New Zealand, Richardson and Dell (1964, p. 150) commented that no species of this group was known from Australian waters but suggested that the group would almost certainly be collected there. In fact specimens were already present in collections. Dr. J. C. Yaldwyn had examined the collections of crabs in the Australian Museum to check whether any unidentified members of the Atelecyclidae were represented before the paper was written. Later, when working on the collection of Majidae, he came across an unidentified specimen of *Trichopeltarion* presented by Charles T. Harrison in 1910 from 40-50 fathoms off Tasmania. This specimen was sent to the writer. Mr. Melbourne Ward had also had specimens of this species from off Tasmania in his collection for many years and had assigned it a manuscript name. Dr. Yaldwyn recognised these while examining the Ward collection and was instrumental in having them also sent to the writer. It had been planned to write a joint description of the new Australian species with Mr. Ward. His untimely death prevented this plan from being carried out. The writer has therefore decided to dedicate this handsome and interesting Australian species to Melbourne Ward as a sign of respect.

Genus *Trichopeltarion* Milne-Edwards, 1880.

Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 8, p. 19.

Type species (monotypy) *Trichopeltarion nobile* Milne-Edwards, 1880.

Trichopeltarion wardi n.sp.

(Plate xvi; text-figs. 1-5).

Carapace without the spines slightly longer than broad; anterior margin broadly rounded, posterolateral margins very gently rounded, posterior margin almost straight. Anterior and lateral margins with strong, spiny teeth, posterior margin with fine, close tubercles. Regions reasonably well marked. Carapace with groups of close-spaced, evenly developed pustules, developed most strongly over the median and posterior portions of the carapace. Pattern of pustules best shown in Plate vii. Front with three equally developed, acute spines, flattened dorsoventrally. Pre-orbital spine strong with subsidiary teeth, relatively wide. Supraorbital spine narrower but denticulate. Post-orbital spine subequal with pre-orbital, bearing subsidiary teeth. Behind the post-orbital spines are two strong compound spines on each side, in front of the lateral spines, followed by two simple teeth and then the relatively short, lateral spines. Lateral spines, each less than one sixth the width of the carapace without spines, bearing subsidiary teeth. Abdomen of seven segments, very similar in detail to that of *fantasticum*.

Orbits large, bordered by three spines above, anterior edge bounded by the basal antennal segment. Eyestalk very narrow, comparatively long.

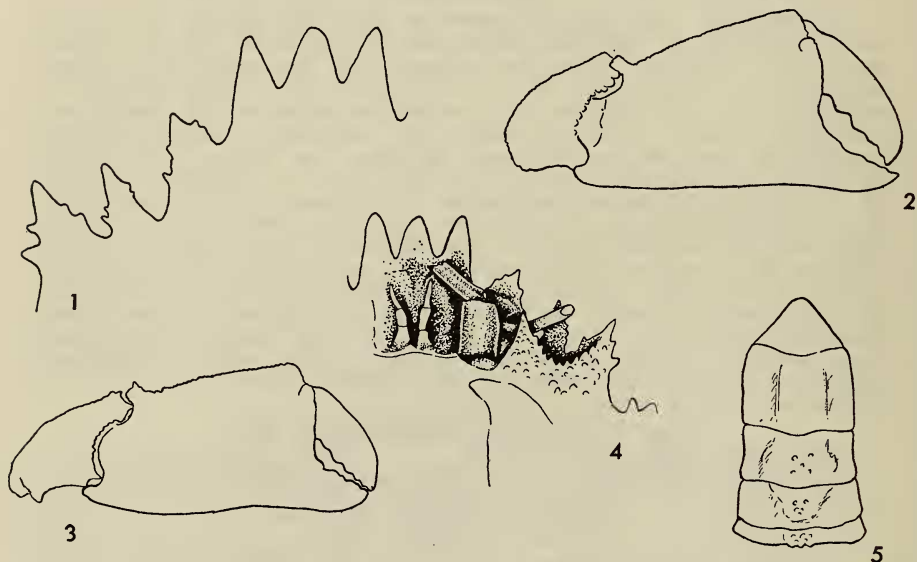
Right cheliped (figs. 2, 3) greatly developed in males, very similar to that of *fantasticum*. Left chela much smaller.

Localities: Off Maria Island, Tasmania, Danish seine working in 40 to 45 fathoms, Capt. K. Moller, Holotype male in the Australian Museum, Sydney

(P. 14789) and one paratype male in the Dominion Museum, Wellington (ex Melbourne Ward collection); 38°12.5'S, 149°05.5'E., off Cape Everard, Victoria, 152 metres, 20.6.1962, C.S.I.R.O. Fisheries (Australian Museum, P. 15188); East of Schouten Island, Tasmania, 40-50 fathoms, 1910, presented Charles T. Harrison (Australian Museum, P. 4045).

Dimensions:	Holotype	Paratype
Carapace width including spines	26 mm.	25 mm.
Carapace width without lateral spines	20 mm.	20 mm.
Carapace length	26 mm.	26 mm.

The known range is from Tasmania to Victoria in depths from 40 to 70 fathoms. In view of the distribution of the genus in the Indo-Pacific, from Japan, the East Indies and the Indian Ocean, the absence of any representative from New South Wales and Queensland can only be considered apparent at present. This gap will undoubtedly be filled by additional collecting.



Figs. 1-5 *Trichopeltarion wardi* n.sp.

Fig. 1 Outline of orbital spines of paratype

Fig. 2 Right cheliped of holotype

Fig. 3

Right cheliped of paratype

Fig. 4

Underside of orbital area

Fig. 5

Abdomen.

The Australian species seems closest to the New Zealand *fantasticum* Richardson and Dell, from which, however, it differs in many details. *T. wardi* lacks the long lateral spines of *fantasticum*, does not have the tubercles grouped into complex clumps, has a simpler supraorbital spine, lacks spines behind the lateral spine, and has a different pattern of spines and tubercles. The other species to which it shows some resemblance is *T. alcocki* Doflein, from which it differs in having divided spines along the carapace in contrast to the simple spines of *alcocki*.

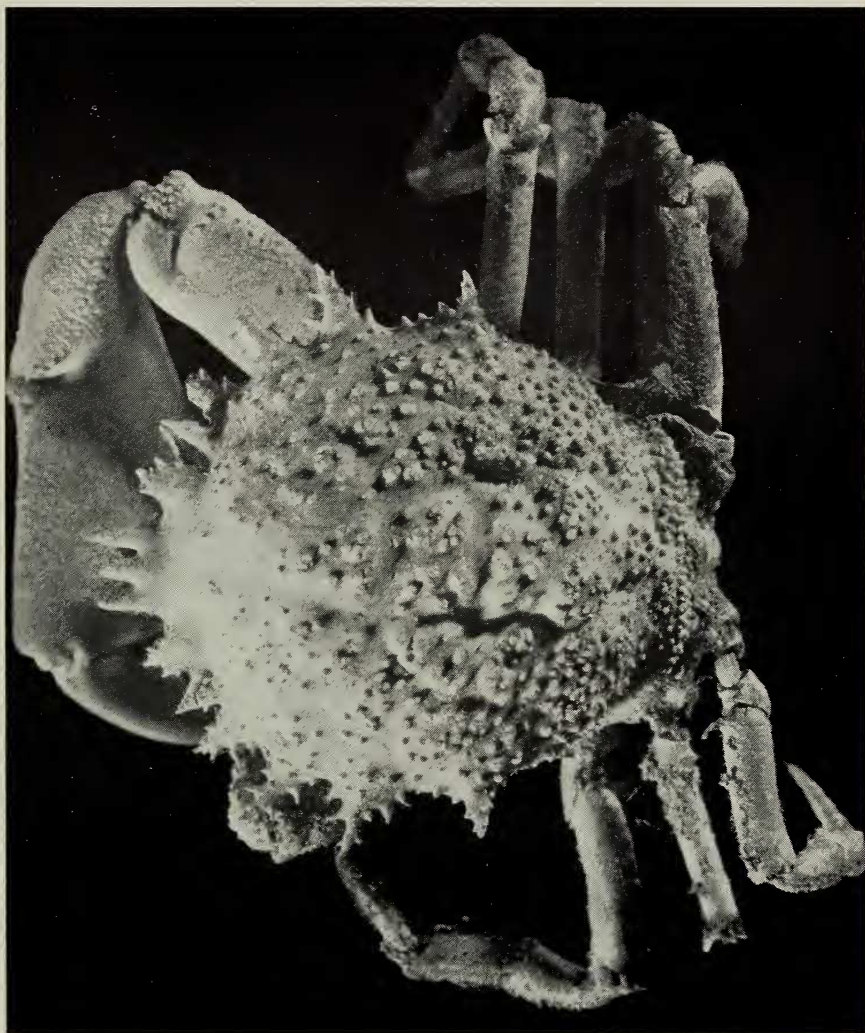
LITERATURE CITED

Richardson, L. R., and Dell, R. K., 1964. A New Crab of the Genus *Trichopeltarion* from New Zealand. *Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z., Zool.*, 4: 145-151.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

Plate XVI — *Trichopeltarion wardi* n.sp.,
Holotype.

Photo: Anthony Healy.



Trichopeltarion wardi Dell. Holotype.

—Photo: A. Healy